

# Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets

Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets



**Our application for development consent has now been submitted and was accepted for examination on Monday 18 November.**

## Project update: Autumn 2024

### Welcome to the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets project ("the Project") newsletter.

Building on our previous updates and consultations, we want to keep you informed on how the Project has progressed.

This newsletter includes information on the key changes we've made to the Project, how we have given regard to your feedback, and what you can expect to happen next.

We would like to thank everybody for their feedback and ongoing engagement.

Your feedback, alongside further engineering and environmental work, has been considered as the Project refined its plans ahead of submitting our application for development consent.

The Project has undergone a range of changes since the submission of its Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2022.

Throughout this development we have undertaken a range of studies to understand potential impacts from, and to, the Project.

Alongside this, we've been working closely with stakeholders to help understand any potential effects and how we can work together to mitigate them.

Through this engagement, and from the feedback we received during our non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation, further refinements have been made to the Project.

We submitted our application for development consent for the Project to the Planning Inspectorate on Monday 21 October 2024, and it was formally accepted on Monday 18 November 2024, meaning it will now progress to the pre-examination stage.

This newsletter focuses on the key changes made since the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

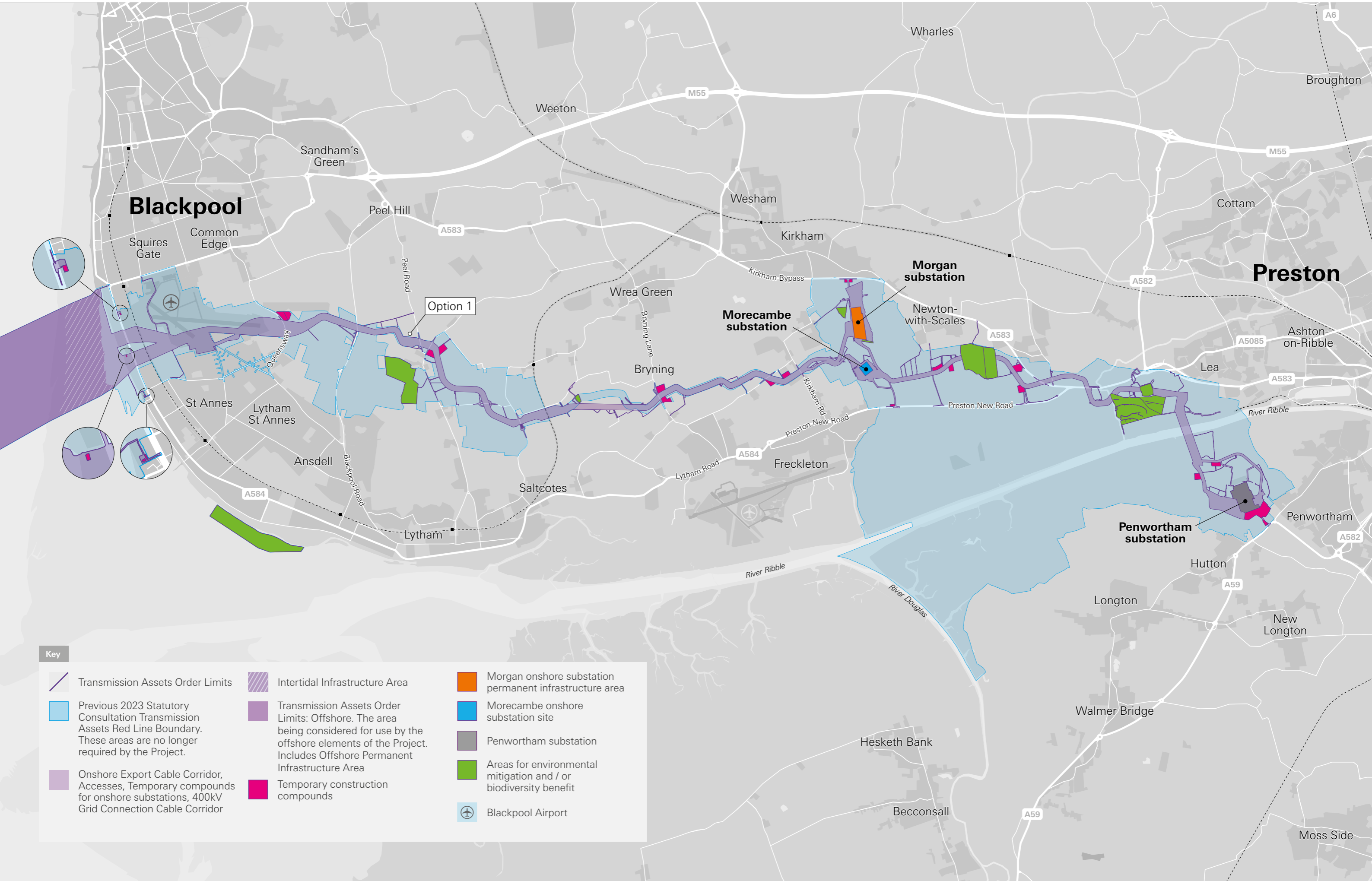
Please refer to the Planning Inspectorate's website to access the Project's application documents: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/morgan-and-morecambe-offshore-wind-farms-transmission-assets>.

Please note that this newsletter focuses solely on the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets. For more information, visit [www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission](http://www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission).

For information on the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Generation Assets, please visit [www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morecambe](http://www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morecambe).

For more information on the Morgan Offshore Wind Project Generation Assets, please visit [www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morgan](http://www.morecambeandmorgan.com/morgan).

# Project updates



**Key**

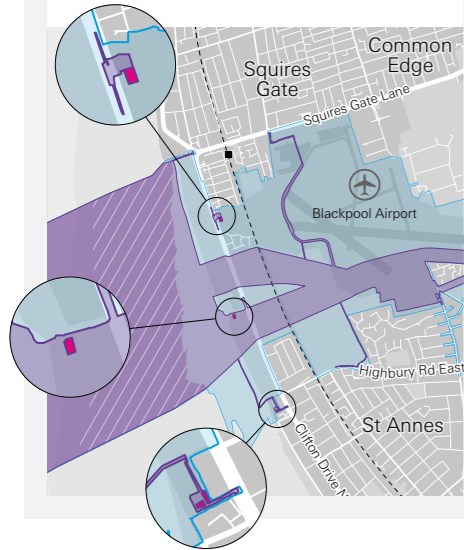
Transmission Assets Order Limits	Intertidal Infrastructure Area	Morgan onshore substation permanent infrastructure area
Previous 2023 Statutory Consultation Transmission Assets Red Line Boundary. These areas are no longer required by the Project.	Transmission Assets Order Limits: Offshore. The area being considered for use by the offshore elements of the Project. Includes Offshore Permanent Infrastructure Area	Morecambe onshore substation site
Onshore Export Cable Corridor, Accesses, Temporary compounds for onshore substations, 400kV Grid Connection Cable Corridor	Temporary construction compounds	Penwortham substation
		Areas for environmental mitigation and / or biodiversity benefit
		Blackpool Airport

# Project updates

## Refinement to the landfall area

### Key updates:

**Reduced the area proposed for our landfall and retained the use of trenchless installation techniques.**



The landfall area is where the offshore export cables come onshore and includes the transitional area between the offshore and onshore cabling. The transition joint bays would house the area where the offshore cables are connected to the onshore cables.

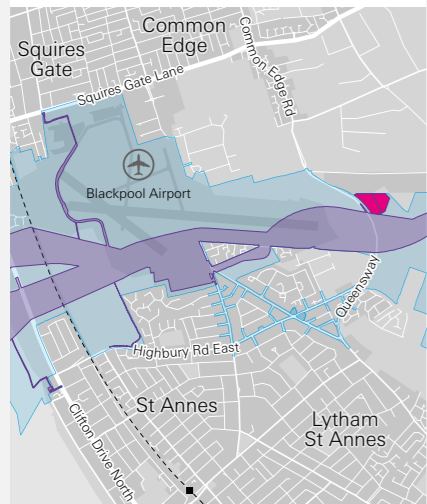
The landfall area between Blackpool and Lytham St Annes has been reduced so that it no longer includes the northern area of the sand dunes and the beach area to the south.

In our PEIR, we referenced work areas adjacent to the Century Healthcare Care Home and St Anne's Old Links Golf Club – these have now been reduced. An area to the north of the runway at Blackpool Airport has also been removed.

## Refinements to the onshore export cable corridor

### Key updates:

**Onshore export cable corridor no longer being proposed along residential roads to the south of Blackpool Airport.**



The onshore export cable corridor will provide a cable connection between the landfall area and the proposed onshore substations.

The onshore export cables will be completely buried underground for their entire length.

From the landfall, the onshore export cable corridor heads east away from the coast.

The option to install the onshore export cables along Blackpool Road North and Kilnhouse Lane has been removed from our proposals.

Beyond Blackpool Airport and Queensway (B5261), the onshore export cable corridor narrows and heads south east towards North Houses Lane.

As the onshore export cable corridor continues, the two route options presented at statutory consultation were in the Lytham Moss and Higher Ballam areas.

These were:

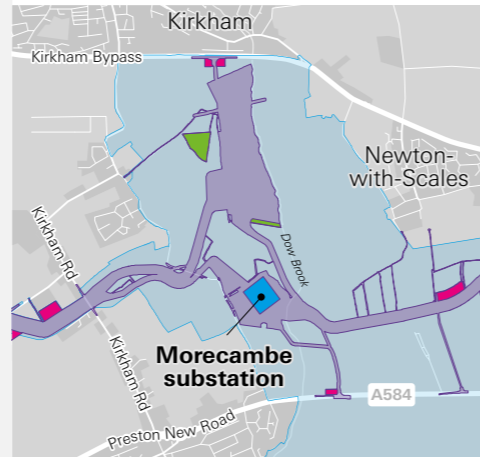
- Option 1 (north, as shown on map), which passes to the north of Higher Ballam and avoids a farmland conservation area; or
- Option 2 (south), which passes to the south of Higher Ballam.

Since statutory consultation, option 1 (north) has been selected, to mitigate potential environmental impacts.

## Refinements to the Morecambe onshore substation and associated temporary construction compounds

### Key updates:

**Single Morecambe substation site now proposed. Building height and footprint both reduced.**



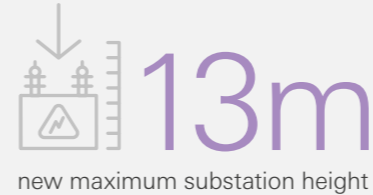
Following consultation on two potential Morecambe onshore substation locations, Option 2 (south) was selected due to it being further away from a greater number of residential receptors than Option 1 (north).

This option will utilise an access from the A584 Preston New Road, avoiding the A583 Kirkham Bypass. This selection allows for a significant reduction in cable length for both the Morecambe onshore export cable and the grid connection cable corridors. Selecting Option 2 also avoids the need to cross the Morgan onshore export cable and grid connection cable corridors.

Both the height and maximum permanent footprint of the onshore substation have been refined. The maximum height has been lowered from 20m (as presented at statutory consultation) to 13m (excluding lightning protection masts) and the permanent footprint has been refined, from 60,000m<sup>2</sup> to 59,500m<sup>2</sup>.

These refinements, alongside landscape planting, will help to reduce the impacts to nearby receptors.

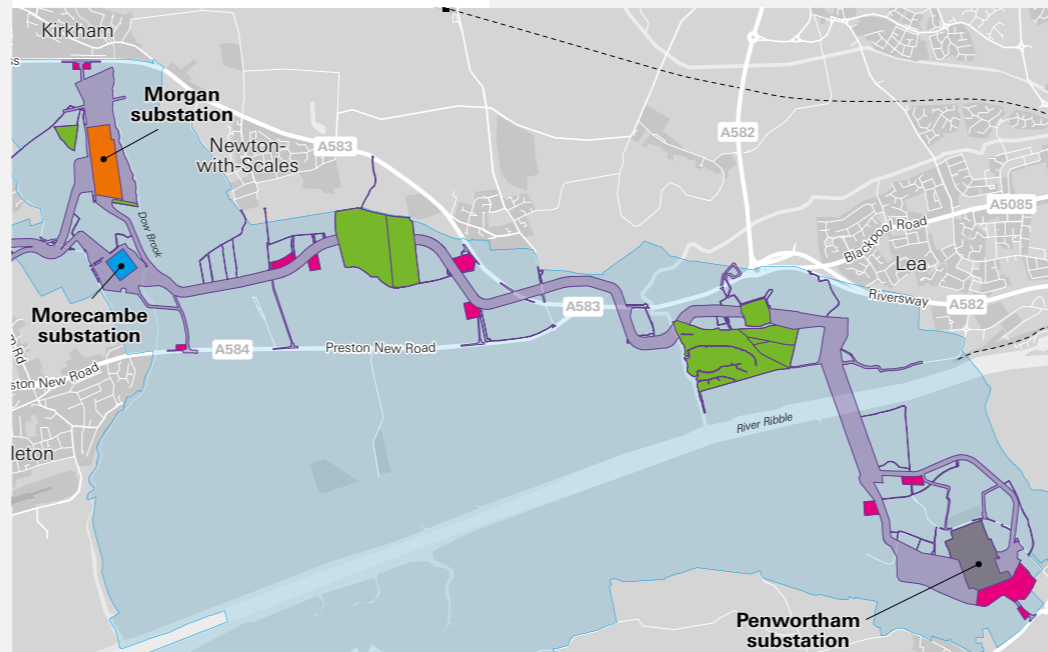
The associated temporary compound for the Morecambe onshore substation has been repositioned.



## Refinements to the 400kV grid connection cable corridor

### Key updates:

**Area (also known as order limits) significantly reduced.**

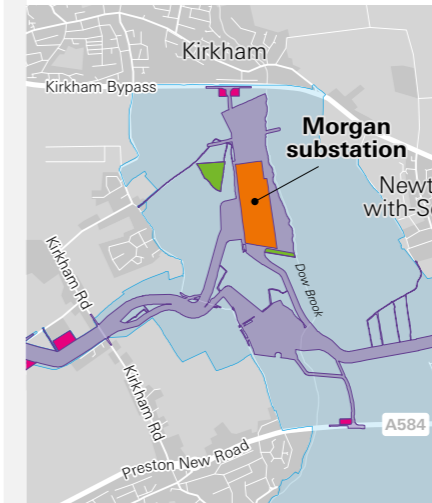


The connection between the proposed onshore substations and the existing National Grid Penwortham substation will be achieved using 400kV grid connection cables. The 400kV grid connection cables will be completely buried underground for their entire length.

## Refinements to the Morgan onshore substation and temporary construction compounds

### Key updates:

**Proposed substation site moved east. Building height reduced, and the overall permanent substation area increased to accommodate environmental mitigation and landscape planting.**



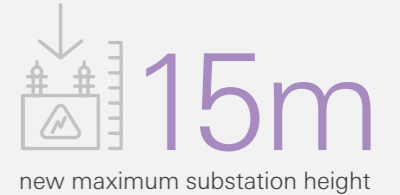
At statutory consultation, the proposed site for the Morgan onshore substation was presented.

The location of this substation has now been moved to the east.

The maximum height of the substation building has also been reduced from 20m to 15m (excluding lightning protection masts).

However, the overall permanent footprint has been increased, from 125,000m<sup>2</sup> to 164,000m<sup>2</sup> to accommodate additional areas for environmental mitigation and landscape planting.

We have also included an area to the west of the substation, which will also mitigate potential impacts.



This process required the consideration of a wide range of engineering, environmental and land interest constraints, which were used to identify the potential 400kV grid connection cable corridor.

For example, our engineering considerations included aspects such as technical feasibility and identifying the shortest and most direct route, where possible.

Examples of environmental constraints included the consideration of designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – areas that have cited known protected species, as well as other landscape and cultural considerations.

Other constraints that were also considered, included the location of existing utilities and other local infrastructure serving the area.

As a result of refinements to the 400kV grid connection cable corridor, the onshore order limits have been significantly reduced.

- Transmission Assets Order Limits
- Previous 2023 Statutory Consultation Transmission Assets Red Line Boundary. These areas are no longer required by the Project.
- Onshore Export Cable Corridor, Accesses, Temporary compounds for onshore substations, 400kV Grid Connection Cable Corridor
- Intertidal Infrastructure Area
- Transmission Assets Order Limits: Offshore. The area being considered for use by the offshore elements of the Project. Includes Offshore Permanent Infrastructure Area
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- Areas for environmental mitigation and / or biodiversity benefit



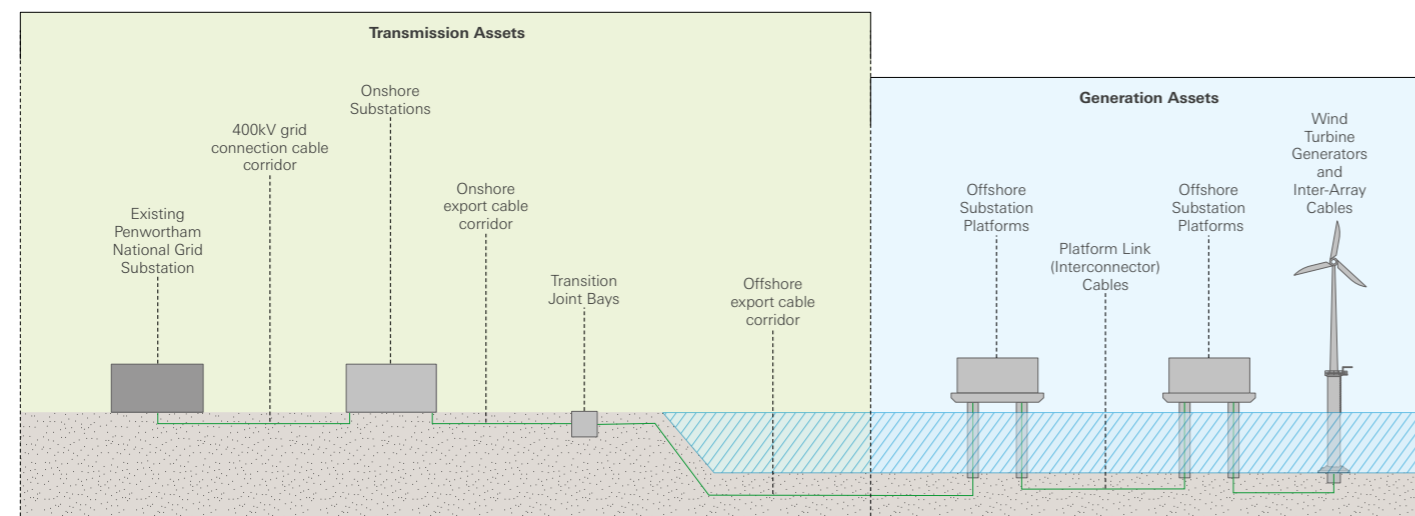
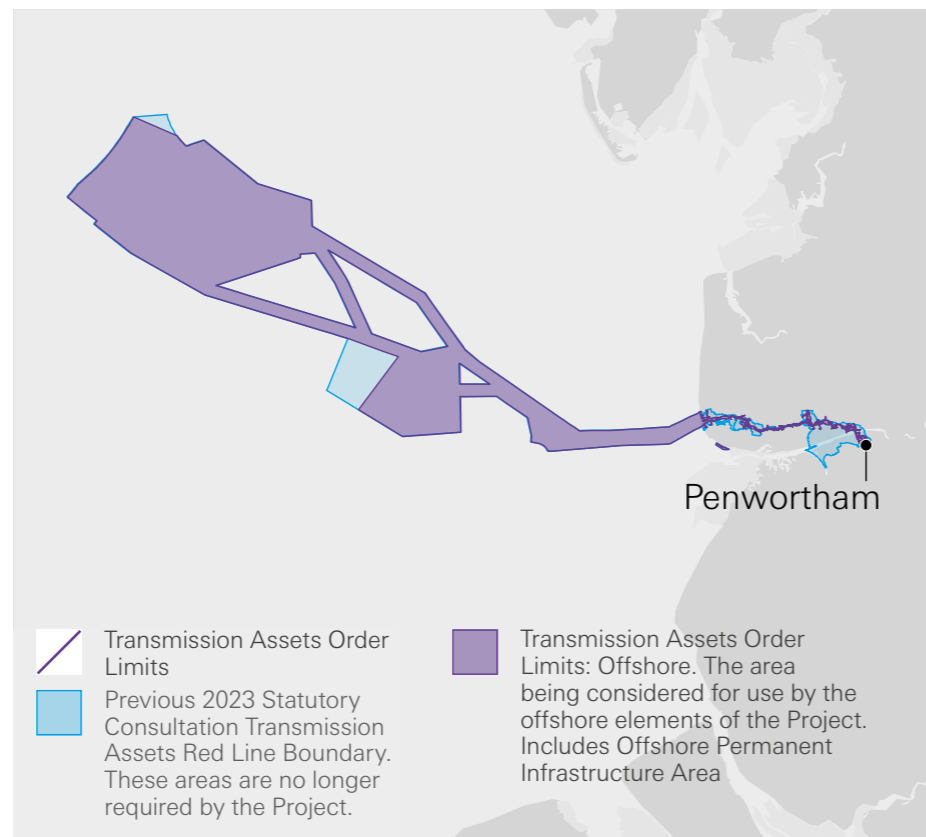
# Updates to the offshore elements

Following feedback received as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and statutory consultation, a decision has been made that the offshore substation platforms (OSPs) would form part of the respective applications for Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets and Morgan Offshore Wind Project: Generation Assets.

The OSPs have not been included within the application for development consent for this Project.

Furthermore, the offshore booster station for the Morgan Offshore Wind Project has been removed as further work has identified that this is not required.

Finally, part of the boundary has been reduced to align with the Morecambe Offshore Windfarm: Generation Assets boundary to the west, as well as reducing a triangular area at the furthest northern point for Morgan to mitigate potential shipping and navigation impacts.



This indicative diagram illustrates which part of the projects are classified as Generation Assets (Morecambe Offshore Windfarm and Morgan Offshore Wind Project) and which parts are classified as Transmission Assets (Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets).

# Summary of statutory consultation

Thank you to everyone who took part in our statutory consultation, which ran from 12 October to 23 November 2023.

During this consultation we held five exhibitions and two pop-up events in the North West of England and Isle of Man, as well as an online webinar for those who were unable to attend an in-person event. Over 1,000 people attended these events to ask questions and find out more about the Project.

The Transmission Assets website was available throughout the consultation and hosted information on the Project, as well as a full suite of consultation materials. All this information – including a recording of the webinar – remains available on the website.

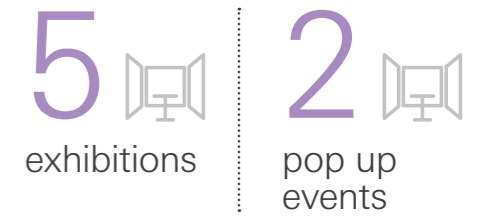
Having an online presence enabled people to take part in the consultation digitally and provide feedback at their own convenience. This could be done by using the online feedback form and interactive feedback map.

During the consultation we received over 1,400 pieces of feedback from local communities, elected representatives and other technical stakeholders – all of which was logged and considered as we finalised our application.

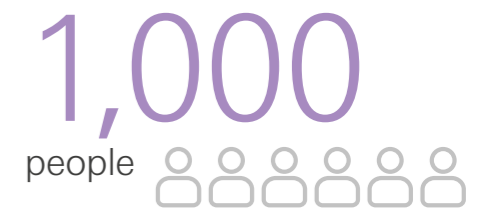
This newsletter demonstrates how the feedback we received has helped us to refine the Project. For example; it has enabled us to provide more clarity on elements including our landfall area, onshore export cable corridor and the location of our substations.

Feedback received about the potential visual impacts from our substations, has helped influence the lower substation heights.

This feedback has been summarised in our Consultation Report, which forms part of our submitted application for development consent and can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate’s website (please see the back page of this newsletter for details).



Attended by more than



More than



# Areas for environmental mitigation and biodiversity benefit

The Project will address potential environmental impacts by using environmental mitigation areas. We have also included areas for biodiversity benefit, as shown on the map on pages 2 and 3.

The environmental mitigation, enhancement and biodiversity benefit areas that were presented at statutory consultation have been refined.



# Next steps

## Our application for development consent was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 21 October 2024.

Our application was accepted on 18 November 2024 and the pre-examination stage of the project has begun. For further information please see the Planning Inspectorate's website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/morgan-and-morecambe-offshore-wind-farms-transmission-assets>.

During the examination stage, the Planning Inspectorate will examine the application with input from interested parties and statutory consultees.

The examination period is expected to be a maximum of six months.

Following the examination, the examining authority will present its recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then make the final decision on whether the application should be granted development consent.

We anticipate a final decision being made on our application in 2026.

Throughout the process, we will continue to engage with stakeholders as we work to develop the best possible Project.

### Indicative timeline



Information about the Project is available on the Planning Inspectorate's website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/morgan-and-morecambe-offshore-wind-farms-transmission-assets>

If you would like any further information or have any questions about the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets, you can contact the team by:



visiting:  
[www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission](http://www.morecambeandmorgan.com/transmission)



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writing to: **Freepost  
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calling:  
**0800 915 2493 (option 3)**